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SOURCE Hsin Ching-chi Lun-ts'ung (Symposium on the New Economy) published by Shih-yueh Ch'u-pan She, pp 212-215

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CHINESE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION PLAN FOR 1950

Sun Hsiao-ts'un

At the National Agricultural Production Conference held in December 1949, the policy on and function of agricultural production for 1950 was decided. The decisions were made after recognition of the basic facts and an examination of the actual situation in different areas. Owing to the speedy victory in the war of people's liberation over the whole country in 1949, we have not had adequate time to start land reform in the newly liberated areas south of the Yangtze River, in the Northwest, and in the Southeast. These areas have a population of some 300 million and 800 million mou (one mou is 1/6 acre) of land that can be utilized in a total of 1,400,000,000 mou of arable land for the nation. The situation is quite different in other areas where land reform has already been effected; those areas have a total population of 150 million and some 600 million mou of land that can be utilized.

The conference considered the restoration of production to be the chief aim of the agricultural policy for 1950. Briefly, the goals of agricultural production for 1950 are: to increase food production to 10 billion catties (a catty is 1.33 pounds), to increase the planting area of cotton to 50 million mou, and to increase the production of raw cotton to 13 million piculs (one picul is 133 pounds), an increase of 4.7 million piculs over the production level of 1949.

To guarantee successful achievement of the goals, the conference suggested nine concrete working methods:

1. Mobilization and organization of labor force, mobilization of women to join in agricultural production, and promotion of intensive farming and rotation system.
2. Raising domestic animals on a large scale, strict prohibition of slaughtering of serviceable animals, pregnant animals, and public animals; injections to prevent diseases; training a large number of veterinary surgeons;

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encouraging the breeding of animals and purchasing good species from abroad; experimenting with artificial insemination; holding cattle exhibitions and competitions; and encouraging farmers to raise more domestic animals.

3. Repair and construction of irrigation works for which a considerable amount of money in the agricultural budget has been appropriated. It is hoped that 2.7 million mou of paddy fields will be added as a result of these efforts.

4. Increased use of fertilizers.

5. Control of insects and worms harmful to agricultural crops.

6. Promote use of good varieties; it is estimated that by 1950, 14,640,000 mou of land will be used for growing crops of selected varieties, of which 10 million mou will be used for growing cotton.

7. Increasing the number of farm tools and machinery.

8. Use of hitherto nonutilized land.

9. Spreading and intensifying scientific research on agriculture.

The increase in production of 100 million catties of food crops and 470,000 piculs of cotton is computed from actual production. The proposed production is only a minimum. For example, the planned increase of food crops is only 5 percent of the total production of food crops in 1949. Since the requirement is low, we have reason to believe that we can fulfill it.

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